

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A digital image processing apparatus for applying pixel-based color correction to an input image to generate an output image, said apparatus comprising:

a color correction module configured to apply varying degrees of color correction and to provide two or more color correction processes each having a respective associated locus in a color space and a respective associated color mapping operation; said two or more color correction processes being sequential so that results of a color correction process form an input to a next such process in said sequence; each of said two or more color correction processes detects whether each pixel lies within said respective locus in color space and, if so, applies said color mapping operation to the pixel,

wherein once a first color correction process is performed on a particular pixel, each additional color correction process of said two or more color correction processes with respect to the particular pixel is limited to an extent dependent on a degree by which ~~the first~~ previous color correction ~~process was~~ processes in the sequence were applied thereby inhibiting color mapping in respect of loci associated with the ~~first~~ previous color correction ~~process~~ processes in the sequence.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, in which each of said color correction processes is carried out by a separate color correction processor.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, in which said locus in color space of at least one of said color correction processes includes a soft region, said soft region being subject to a partial color mapping operation.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 3, in which said color mapping operation of a subsequent process having a locus in color space overlapping with said soft region is only partially inhibited in a region overlapping said soft region.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 3, in which a degree of softness in a locus in color space may vary between a first degree of softness, being indicative that no color mapping will take place, and a second degree of softness, being indicative that complete color mapping will take place.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 5, in which color mapping by a color correction process is partially inhibited in respect of a region in color space in which a sum of all degrees of softness relating to that region in previous processes in said sequence lies between said first and second degrees of softness.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 6, in which color mapping in a process will be completely inhibited in respect of a region in color space in which said sum of all degrees of softness relating to that region in previous processes equals or exceeds said second degree of softness.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 6, in which each process is operable to detect a running total degree of softness applied by preceding processes in respect of each position in color space, and to apply color correction to an extent no greater than a difference between said running total degree of softness and said second degree of softness.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method of digital image processing for applying pixel-based color correction to an input image to generate an output image, said method comprising the steps of:

providing two or more color correction processes each having a respective associated locus in a color space and a respective associated color mapping operation;

arranging said color correction processes as a succession of processes so that results of a color correction process form an input to a next such process in said succession; and

detecting, in each color correction process, whether each pixel lies within said respective locus in color space and, if so, to apply said color mapping operation to the pixel,

wherein once a first color correction process is performed on a particular pixel, each additional color correction process of said two or more color correction processes with respect to the particular pixel is limited to an extent dependent on a degree by which previous ~~the first~~ color correction processes in the sequence were ~~process was~~ applied thereby inhibiting color mapping in respect of loci associated with the ~~first~~ previous color correction ~~process~~ processes in the sequence.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A computer readable storage medium encoded with instructions, which when executed by a computer causes the computer to execute a method comprising:

providing two or more color correction processes each having a respective associated locus in a color space and a respective associated color mapping operation;

arranging said color correction processes being as a succession of processes so that results of a color correction process form an input to a next such process in said succession;

detecting, in each color correction process, whether each pixel lies within said respective locus in color space and, if so, to apply said color mapping operation to the pixel, wherein once a first color correction process is performed on a particular pixel, each additional color correction process of said two or more color correction processes with respect to the particular pixel is limited to an extent dependent on a degree by which ~~the first~~ previous color correction processes were ~~process was~~ applied thereby inhibiting color mapping in respect of loci associated with the ~~first~~ previous color correction processes in the sequence ~~process~~.

Claims 11-13 (Canceled).